

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 FRB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 STR-07 /178 W
-----053888 271533Z /72

P 271450Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7515
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: EC FISHERY COUNCIL, JUNE 20-21, 1978

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 8248, (B) BRUSSELS 7280
(C) BRUSSELS 2174, (D) BRUSSELS 4556
(E) 77 BRUSSELS 18320

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THEIR TWO ATTEMPTS IN APRIL (REFS A AND B), THE EC FISHERIES MINISTERS MADE YET ANOTHER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT, AT THEIR JUNE 20-21 COUNCIL SESSION, TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.K. AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS, WHICH HAVE LONG BLOCKED AGREEMENT ON A COMMON EC FISHING POLICY. THIS LATEST COUNCIL DEBATE, IN FACT, HAD LITTLE EFFECT OTHER THAN TO REEMPHASIZE THE WIDELY
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DIVERGENT VIEWS IN PLAY, AND THE MINISTERS WERE ABLE TO AGREE ONLY ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS AT THE JULY 24 COUNCIL SESSION. APART FROM THE DEADLOCK ON THE INTERNAL REGIME, THE COUNCIL DID TAKE SEVERAL ACTIONS IN THE EXTERNAL FISHING SECTOR, INCLUDING EXTENSION UNTIL JULY 31 OF EXISTING FISHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPAIN, NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND THE FAROE ISLANDS, AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK EXTENSION OF CURRENT BILATERAL FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNAL REGIME:

HOPES OF COMPROMISE ON AN INTERNAL REGIME WERE DASHED ON THE EVE OF THE COUNCIL WHEN U.K. AGRICULTURE MINISTER SILKIN PUBLICLY REITERATED THE U.K.'S DEMANDS, EMPHASIZING AS WELL TO REPORTERS HIS VIEW THAT ANY U.K. GOVERNMENT RETURNED AFTER A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE NO MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN THE PRESENT ONE. THE CONTINUING WIDE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE U.K. POSITION AND THAT OF THE EC COMMISSION (SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES) WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT GUNDELACH, WHO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN REMARKS TO THE COUNCIL:

(A) THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR 1978 MEMBER STATE FISHING QUOTAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REVISED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FISHING RIGHTS LOSSES SUSTAINED IN THIRD COUNTRY WATERS AND FAVOR THE U.K. AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER MEMBER STATES.

(B) THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS CONFORM WITH THE ROME TREATY, AND ANY FURTHER CHANGES IN THEM MUST BE EQUALLY FIRMLY BASED ON TREATY LAW; THE COMMISSION THEREFORE CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS IMPLYING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

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FOR U.K. FISHERMEN, PERMANENT EXCLUSIVE ZONES, OR OTHER DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES.

(C) THE U.K.'S DEMANDS NOW INCLUDE:

-- PHASING OUT OF HISTORIC RIGHTS FOR OTHER MEMBER STATES IN BRITISH WATERS IN A MANNER RESULTING IN A PERMANENT EXCLUSIVE COASTAL BAN UP TO 12 MILES;

-- FURTHER QUOTA INCREASES FOR 1978, BEYOND THOSE ALREADY MADE THROUGH MAJOR SACRIFICE BY OTHER MEMBER STATES;

-- AN INCREASED PREFERENTIAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS OTHER MEMBER STATES IN NORWEGIAN WATERS NORTH OF 62 DEGREES, AND IN FAROESE WATERS;

-- AN INCREASE IN ALLOCATIONS WHICH, IN THE COMMISSION'S ESTIMATE, WOULD GIVE THE U.K., BY THE END OF 1982, ROUGHLY THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 PERCENT OF THE CATCH AVAILABLE IN WATERS UNDER U.K. FISHERIES JURISDICTION;

-- A PRIORITY OF 20 TO 25 PERCENT, ACCORDING TO SPECIES, RESERVED FOR THE U.K. OF ANY GROWTH IN COMMUNITY FISHING POSSIBILITIES AFTER THE END OF 1982; AND

-- IMPLEMENTATION OF A FISHING PLAN SYSTEM, BASED ON ACCESS TO SPECIFIED ZONES, WHICH WOULD "QUITE CERTAINLY" LEAD TO FLAG DISCRIMINATION.

(D) IN THE COMMISSION'S VIEW, THESE U.K. DEMANDS CANNOT FORM THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT, AND THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS THEREFORE REMAIN ON THE TABLE. THE COMMISSION NEVERTHELESS REMAINS PREPARED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AND TO REEXAMINE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS OF ITS CONSERVATION AND CONTROL PROPOSALS. THE COMMISSION IS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO WILLING TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF FISHING PLANS, WHERE JUSTIFIED BY NEED TO PROTECT LOCAL POPULATIONS, LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL FISHING PATTERNS, OR LOCAL STOCKS. THE COMMISSION COULD ALSO AGREE TO THE USE OF FISHING PLANS FOR REGULATING THE EXERCISE OF HISTORIC FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN 12-MILE ZONES, BUT IT COULD NOT ACCEPT CREATION OF PERMANENT EXCLUSIVE ZONES.

3. MINISTERIAL DEBATE FOLLOWING GUNDELACH'S REMARKS WAS HEATED AND INCONCLUSIVE, ENDING ONLY IN AGREEMENT THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HOLD ANOTHER ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE INTERNAL REGIME AT ITS JULY 24 MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME,

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THE "EIGHT" WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THEIR INFORMAL AGREEMENT (REF C) TO RESPECT THE COMMISSION'S CONSERVATION, CONTROL, AND QUOTA PROPOSALS, WHILE THE U.K. WILL CONTINUE TO RESPECT SELF-IMPOSED QUOTAS BASED ON AVERAGES OF PREVIOUS YEARS' CATCHES.

4. EXTERNAL REGIME:

(A) NORWAY-SWEDEN-FAROE ISLANDS: THE COUNCIL EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 31 THE CURRENT INTERIM MEASURES GOVERNING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY WATERS BY NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, AND FAROESE VESSELS (REF D). THE COMMISSION REPORTED THAT IT WOULD SUBMIT TO THE JULY 24 COUNCIL AMENDED PROPOSALS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF RECENT CATCH TRENDS, FOR ALLOCATION AMONG MEMBER STATES OF COMMUNITY QUOTAS IN THE NORWEGIAN AND FAROESE ZONES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNCIL AGREED TO ESTABLISH, DURING JULY ONLY, SPECIFIC COD AND HADDOCK QUOTAS IN NORWEGIAN WATERS NORTH OF THE SIXTY-SECOND PARALLEL FOR FRANCE, GERMANY AND THE U.K., PENDING THE DECISION ON OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF THE EC'S NORWEGIAN QUOTA. THE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO INITIAL THE EC-NORWAY FRAMEWORK FISHERIES AGREEMENT (REF A), AND AGREED THAT AT ITS JULY 24 MEETING, IT WOULD DISCUSS SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT.

(B) SPAIN: PENDING RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON EC-SPANISH FISHING NEGOTIATIONS (REF A), THE COUNCIL AGREED TO EXTEND UNTIL JULY 31 THE CURRENT MEASURES GOVERNING SPANISH FISHING IN COMMUNITY WATERS.

(C) YUGOSLAVIA: PENDING YUGOSLAVIA'S AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EC ON A FISHING AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE BILATERAL ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRED AT THE END OF 1977 BUT WAS RENEWED THROUGH JUNE 30, 1978 (REFS A AND E), THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT

WITH YUGOSLAVIA EXTENDING EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH
THE END OF 1978. HINTON

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